REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2003 in connection with the above-identified patent application. In that Action, claims 1, 2, 5-23, 26-36, and 39-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,452,609 to Katinsky, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,796 to Yost, et al. Dependent claims 3, 24, and 37 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as containing allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Action was made final.

U.S. Patent No. 6,452,609 to Katinsky, et al.:

As noted in the previous Response, Katinsky discloses a media player and an interface for a user to control the media player. A web page is presented at which a user can manipulate media icons to determine a play list of media objects such as songs or videos. Each graphical icon represents a media object, and the graphical icons can be manipulated by the user to modify the play list. For example, the media icons may be dragged to the sequencer to add them to the sequencer. The user can build up and thereby define various play lists, and select which play list to play. Banner advertisements may appear on the user's screen, and the user can select the banner and drag it to the sequencer to add the media object such as a song represented by the banner to his play list. Thus, Katinsky discloses a media player with a graphical interface and user-defined play lists.

U.S. Patent No. 6,567,796 to Yost, et al.:

Again, as noted previously, U.S. Patent No. 6,667,796 to Yost, et al. is directed to an On-Line Analytical Processing system (OLAP). An OLAP is a system that retrieves and sorts through large amounts of data stored in data warehouses. OLAP systems analyze the data from a number of different perspective and support complex analyses against large input data sets. The invention relates to a system for managing automatic broadcasting of information derived from OLAP system reports to subscriber devices, including email, PDA's, pagers, facsimiles, printers, mobile phones, and telephones, based on subscriber-specified criteria. A primary purpose of Yost is to

eliminate the need for users to initiate generation of reports which they desire, and then scan through the new report to determine if the relevant information has changed over the time period specified. A system administrator can manage the scheduling of services to output reports to system subscribers. Thus, Yost discloses an automatic data report generator for generating and sending user-defined and user-requested data reports to subscribers.

Claims 1-3, 5-18, and 51 are in Condition for Allowance:

Independent claim 1 recites a method for providing a centralized user interface at an administrator terminal in a network for managing operations including encoding operations performed on media data by selected ones of a plurality of media servers. The method includes steps of displaying a graphical user interface at an administrative terminal, receiving information input by the user, generating commands and associated parameters based on the input information and transmitting commands and associated parameters to a selected server. The graphical user interface includes a plurality of interface components enabling a user to select between a manual encoding mode for manually starting and stopping manual encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers, and a scheduled encoding mode for defining schedules for scheduled encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers. The receiving step includes receiving information input by the user indicating a selection of one of the media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation. Commands and associated parameters are generated based on the input information for instructing the selected server to execute the specified encoding operation in accordance with the selected mode of operation.

As noted in the specification of the subject application, one problem associated with prior art methods of configuring media servers is that there are no mechanisms which prevent the administrator from specifying invalid options, such as specifying an invalid path or an invalid file name for a selected asset. Furthermore, for a variety of multimedia network applications, it is important to be able to coordinate the scheduling of media operations to be performed by a plurality of media servers. The administrator should be able to configure a first server, that is an encoding server, to encode media data received from multi-media equipment, such as a video camera, at a

scheduled time. In the past, however, no means were provided for remotely controlling the encoding of media assets by a media server. No flexibility was provided to the administrator to coordinate a plurality of servers to selectively perform steps of creating new assets, transferring the assets and distributing such as by multicasting or otherwise handling the assets in the network.

Therefore, the system taught in the present application provides a graphical user interface process providing a centralized interface for remotely managing media assets, and scheduling media operations to be performed by a plurality of media servers in a computer network system. The media operations include deleting media assets from a source location in a network, copying media assets from selected source locations to selected destination locations, multicasting operations for streaming media assets from selected media servers to selected clients via the network, and encoding operations for encoding media assets.

In the Office Action, the Examiner took the position that Katinsky discloses a method for managing operations in a network including displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information input by the user, generating commands and associated parameters, and transmitting the commands and associated parameters to a selected server. The Examiner alleges that the interface displayed includes components enabling a user to select a manual encoding mode for manually starting and stopping manual encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers. Further, the Examiner alleges that the reference teaches receiving information input by the user specifying a selected one of the media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation. Lastly, according to the Examiner, the reference shows generating commands and associated parameters based on the input information for instructing the selected server to execute the specified encoding operation in accordance with the selected mode of operation.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's understanding of the Katinsky patent. More particularly, with regard to the ability of the user to select one of the media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation, the Examiner cites column 4, lines 12-20 whereat it is indicated that a user can select media icons to create and modify one or more user-defined play lists. Nowhere in that portion of the Katinsky patent is there taught or suggested the notion of receiving

information input by a user indicating a selection of one of a plurality of media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation.

The Yost '796 patent does not remedy the above. At best, Yost discloses that a system administrator can manage the scheduling of services to output to system subscribers. Yost discloses an automatic report generator for generating and sending user-defined and user-requested data reports to subscribers.

In accordance with the above, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 5-18, and 51 dependent therefrom are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

Claims 19, 20, 21, and 52 are in Condition for Allowance:

As noted above, neither of the references cited by the Examiner teach, suggest, or fairly disclose any notion of enabling a user to select between a manual encoding mode and a scheduled encoding mode or receiving information input by a user specifying a selected one of a plurality of media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation.

Independent claim 19 recites a method for providing a centralized user interface including steps of receiving information input by the user indicating a selection of one of manual control options and generating a start command and if a start option is selected and generating a stop command if a stop option is selected. Further, a displaying step displays interface components enabling a user to select from manual control options including a start option for starting and resuming a manual encoding process, and a stop option for stopping the manual encoding process.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 19 and claims 20, 21, and 52 dependent therefrom are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Claims 22-24, and 26-34 are in Condition for Allowance:

Independent claim 22 recites a machine readable storage device having encoding instructions for executing a process including steps of displaying a user interface with components enabling a user to select between manual and scheduled encoding modes and for receiving input information by the user indicating a selection of

one of a plurality of media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation.

For at least the reasons given above, it is respectfully submitted that neither of the prior art references cited by the Examiner teach, suggest, or fairly disclose the limitations contained in claim 22. Therefore, claim 22 and claims 23, 24, and 26-34 dependent therefrom are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

Claims 35-37, 39-50, and 53 are in Condition for Allowance:

Claim 35 recites a server operative to provide an applet to a client via a network, the applet including encoding instructions for executing a process comprising the steps of displaying a user interface to a client, the interface including a plurality of components enabling a user to select between manual and scheduled encoding modes and receiving information input by the user specifying a selected one of a plurality of media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation.

Again, nowhere in either of the references cited by the Examiner is there a teaching or suggestion of providing a user the ability to select between manual or scheduled encoding modes or to enable input by a user indicating a selection of one of a plurality of media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 35 and claims 36, 37, 39-50, and 53 dependent therefrom are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, comments, and arguments presented, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Allowance of all pending claims and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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